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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Prison Administration/Location, Layout, Personnel of the District Prison at Stara Zagora.

50X1-HUM

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Bulgarian Prison Administration

2. "Prisons in Bulgaria come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior - Department of Prisons and Compulsory Labor Camps (Otdel Zatvori i Trudovi Vospitateini Obshtezhitya). Bulgaria has 23 prisons in the proper sense of the word. They are divided into seven categories. To the first category belongs the Central Prison in Sofia. To the second belong the prisons in Stara Zagora, Kolarovgrad (formerly Shumen), Burgas and Stalin (Varna). The prisons in Stara Zagora and Kolarovgrad are disciplinary prisons. The prison in Sliven now belongs to the third category [not explained]. In mid-1951 part of the Sliven prisons were transferred to Kolarovgrad, part to Stara Zagora. The prison in Pasardgik used to be a severe disciplinary prison, but since the end of 1950 it has been used only for sick persons and invalids.
3. "The head of the Department of Prisons and Labor Camps (TVO) within the Ministry of Interior is [as of autumn 1952] Anghel Kuzmanov, an old-time Communist who was once a political prisoner. Before assuming his present post he was a high official in the Darzhavna Sigurnost (Security Police).

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4. "The department inspectors include:

- (a) (fnu) Neshev - Former head of the compulsory labor camp in Dupnitsa (now Stanke Dimitrovo).
- (b) Col (fnu) Milenkov - Former head of the uniformed militia in Sofia.
- (c) Capt (fnu) Kisiov
- (d) Lt Veska Todorova - [redacted]

[redacted] Since 1948

she has been a prison inspector.

Location of Stara Zagora District Prison

- 5. "The district prison at Stara Zagora is situated about two kilometers south of the town proper. The prison buildings are situated on the eastern side of the central highway Stara Zagora Dimitrovgrad. About two km from Stara Zagora and 28 km from Dimitrovgrad a special road leads off of the highway to the main entrance to the prison. This road is about 300 meters long.
- 6. "Between the highway and the prison, south of the special road, there is a gypsum factory. Near it, on the other side of the highway, is the Dimiter Stanov factory which produces iron goods and machine parts.
- 7. "Also outside the prison walls but forming a part of the prison property is, on the north side of the special road near the prison entrance, a three-story building, 30 x 20 m, in which the prison administrative personnel live. South of the prison, but part of the property, are two identical buildings each 40 x 15 m. One consists of a stable for horses, a shed for cattle and sheep, a pig-sty and a poultry coop. The other houses agricultural tools and equipment. About 30 prisoners live in these barracks to look after the cattle and poultry.
- 8. "The prison is surrounded by fields and orchards. Those to the East and South, belong to the prison farm. The rest belong to the state farm Stara Zagora (Darzavno Zemledelsko Stopanstvo). It was rumored among the prisoners and prison staff in summer 1952 that the prison farm would be incorporated into the DZS (state farm).
- 9. "The prison area proper is surrounded by a wall about seven m high and one m thick, foundations about two m thick. This wall forms a quadrangle about 300 m long from north to south and about 250 m wide. There is only one entrance into the prison area: through a gate in the west wall at the end of the special road from the highway. The gate is of solid iron about five m wide and five m high. On both sides of the gate are towers eight m high. The gate is opened and closed by a superintendent (nadziratel). On the gate towers there are no sentry posts. At the four single corners of the wall there are high towers on which are posted day and night soldiers of the forces of the Ministry of the Interior.
- 10. "Close to the gate, inside the prison walls on the southern side, is a two-story building about 10 x eight m. The first floor has a long hall with two beds, a desk with telephone, a table and a file for visitors, correspondence and prisoners' food parcels. In this hall there are usually two guards on visiting days three who issue permits for visiting the prisoners. The second floor has two rooms. One contains the telephone switchboard. Four clerks work there. The other room is occupied by the club of the CP organization of the prison staff. There are bookcases, a desk and chairs for about 50 people. On the walls are pictures of Stalin, Lenin, Marx, Dimitrov and Vulko Chervenkov.

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11. "Inside the prison entrance, on the opposite northern side, is a two-story building, 10 x eight m, which houses the detachment of interior troops which forms the prison's security unit. The detachment consists of 30 men, including two sergeants and one officer on duty. The detachment changes every 24 hours, usually at 7 pm.
12. "One side of both these entrance buildings is formed by the prison wall itself. The second floor rooms have windows in the prison wall. Both gate towers are parts of those buildings.
13. "Both entrance buildings are situated inside a kind of a yard formed by two walls about seven m high and about 40 m long which run from the entrance buildings to the main prison building. About midway along either wall is a solid iron gate about four m wide and five or six m high. The yard is paved with concrete. There is usually only one guard of the interior troops in front of the Security building.
14. "The two-story prison administration building connects the yard with the main prison building. One enters through a gate about two m wide by three m high:
 - (a) On the first floor to the right of the entrance there are one after another: the office of the deputy director of the prison, office of the director, office of the prison commander of the Darzhavna Sigurnost, clerk and superintendent's office, bookkeeping office and the office of the planning officer. On the left side: office of the guard on duty, prison clerk's office, prisoners' files, WC, [redacted] archived and a waiting room for visitors. The waiting room is connected by a door with a hall used for visiting with the prisoners. This hall is divided along its diagonal by double 'net-bars'. During visiting hours one or two militia-men stand between these bars. The visitors enter from the waiting room, the prisoners from the main prison building through a door on the far side of the nets.
 - (b) The entire second floor of the prison administration building forms the prison theater. The stage is at the southern end. There are movable wooden benches for about 450 people. The walls have pictures of Marx, Engels, Stalin, Lenin, P. Blagoyev, G. Dimitrov, V. Chervenkov, G. Kirkov and others. Early in 1952 a picture of G. Isankov was hung, when he became Minister of Interior. Previously there was a picture of Alexander Stamboliysky. This was removed in April 1952. For about one month there was a picture of the Soviet writer [fnu] Sholokhov. For a few days there was even a picture of Victor Hugo. On various occasions pictures of [fnu] Botev and [fnu] Levski were hung for a short time. The walls are also decorated with handwritten, framed texts of Dimitrov's oath before the Party and with cartoons of King Boris, Hitler, N. Petkov, Trayko Kostov, Truman, General Eisenhower and others. Under the pictures there are quotations from the speeches or writings of those portrayed; under the cartoons - malicious remarks. Tr. Kostov, for instance, is shown with an enormous mouth, drawn out tongue, drooling saliva. N. Petkov - very fat, kneeling in prayer, is begging for aid from the 'war-mongers.' General Eisenhower is represented as a police dog.
 - (c) There is a kitchen for the prisoners in the basement of the management house.
12. "In the center of the main prison building is an open circular area about 15 meters in diameter. In the center a brick pillar rises to the third-floor level at which point it is connected with the building corridor. On the pillar there is always a guard on duty. He surveys the whole prison and signals the order of the day through a system of electric bells.

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13. "The prison basement:

- (a) The whole space beneath the prison's administration building is occupied by the kitchen, for prisoners' food.
- (b) Under the prison's north wing is located the central heating installation; the coal store which has two outside openings through which coal supplies are delivered; and the prison's technical workshop. This workshop is also the prison radio center, from which radio programs are broadcast through loudspeakers. This workshop is the central point for a secret microphone system installed in the prisoners' cells. The Commandant of the Darzavna Sigurnost listens to the prisoners talk.
- (c) Under the prison's southern wing are, on one side: a cell for the reception of new prisoners, the clothes store and punitive cells; on the other side of the corridor: a store for the prisoners' personal belongings, a room for disinfection of these belongings, the prisoners' bathroom, and laundry. The six punitive cells are isolated rooms without windows. They are entered not from the main corridor, but from the back corridor. The size of each cell is one by two m. In the middle of each punitive cell is a movable bar, which is open or closed according to the punishment imposed. Those who get heavy punishment remain within the limits of a half of the cell. Sometimes four prisoners will be quartered simultaneously in a half-cell. No sanitary facilities - just a bucket. The daylight is visible only when the door is open. The floor and the walls are of cement. The cells are cold in summer, freezing in winter. No possessions can be taken into the cells. Smoking is forbidden. Prisoners thus punished get only the remnants of the regular prisoners' food - usually just a watery soup. New prisoners are usually locked in the reception cell until they are given a bath and disinfected. Other prisoners are directed to small single cells, where they stay alone until the entrance formalities are completed.
- (d) Under that section of the main prison building, which on the eastern side corresponds to the administration section on the western side and which is used on all floors for general purposes, the basement provides a large storeroom for products made in the carpentry shop (cupboards, beds, furniture).

16. "In the southern wing of the main prison building the first floor is occupied by single cells. At the end of this wing is the prison hospital. In the northern wing are single cells and the section for women.

- (a) The prison hospital consists of four cells, six by six m each, an ambulatorium and a special yard for the sick. Each cell has seven or eight beds. The windows are normal size but barred. The yard, about 15 by 30 m is surrounded by a wall about seven m high. Ambulatory patients are allowed to spend the whole day in the yard. The patients are cared for by two prisoners-physicians Dr. Groziu Grozev and Dr. fnu Penchev.

These

doctors are responsible to the chief physician of the State Hospital in Stara Zagora. He visits the prison hospital twice a week and examines the most serious patients. Upon his orders they may be transferred to the State Hospital in the town. The food in the prison hospital is the same as for the other prisoners, but the kitchen gives the sick the best. Special diets may be ordered for sick prisoners.

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- (b) The section for women is situated at the end of the northern wing of the prison on the first floor. It consists of five cells and a separate yard. In June 1925 women were living there under investigation or serving sentences. Under the prison rules contacts between male and female prisoners are strictly forbidden. In practice some female prisoners join with the men in various propaganda and cultural undertakings organized by the Prisoners' Cultural Committee.
- (c) The rest of the first floor is occupied by the prison cells. There are two kinds: single cells and common cells. Single cells are four m long, 1.70 m wide and about 3.50 m high. They line both sides of the corridors on the first, second and third floors of the northern and southern wings of the main prison building. The common cells are eight m and 3.50 m high. They are located in the part of the building east of the empty circular area.
- (1) In principle, single cells are for three prisoners each, but they may hold one isolated prisoner or seven. Near the ceiling of each single cell is a window 50 by 20 cm with an iron grate outside. The grate is so dense that a hand can hardly push through. The cells have solid wooden doors with wrought iron ^{bars}. The doors can be opened in the middle from outside. At the level of a man's face they have a glass opening. The doors are 10 cm thick. The opening is wide on the side of the cell and narrow and glazed on the outside. Looking from the outside one sees the whole cell; looking from the inside one sees only a limited view. There is a movable cover on the outside of the opening. The cells have cement floors. The sole furnishings are sleeping bags and a bucket.
 - (2) The common cells have two windows each 1 x 0.50 m. Some cells have 18 beds in a cell, some have three stories of berths; most have just straw-sacks on the cement floor. On both sides of the door are closets for the prisoners' belongings. Sometimes there is a table in the middle of the cell.

The entire prison in Stara Zagora has 129 cells, of which 112 are 'single' and 13 'common'. The numbers of the cells begin with No. 1 on the right of the prison entrance and continue from one floor to another. On the first floor the cells number from 1 to 29. All the single cells of the prison in Stara Zagora are occupied by political prisoners, all the common cells by criminal prisoners. The prison is divided into departments.

- (1) On the first floor are the tezhki saloni: in the southern wing Department IA and in the northern wing Department IB. They are used by political prisoners under investigation. Department IB is also a working room for the Darzhavna Sigurnost. The corridor is covered at the top by a kind of ceiling of wooden planks so, that everything that goes on there is hidden from the rest of the prisoners. The ordinary prison guards have no access to this department; the prisoners are under the exclusive care of the functionaries of the Darzhavna Sigurnost. The prisoners in Departments IA and IB are isolated from the other prisoners as well as from the other cells. They have no outings for a walk.

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- (2) On the second floor single cells occupy the entire southern and northern wings, above the hospital and the section for women as well. Department IIA is on the southern side, Department IIB on the northern side. On the third floor Department IIIA is on the southern side and Department IIIB on the northern side. All these cells hold political prisoners under sentence: those with heavier sentences on the second floor and those with lighter sentences on the third floor. These prisoners are isolated from the criminal prisoners. They walk in separate courtyards.
17. "Northwest of the main prison building is a carpentry shop. This is a two-story building about 80 by 50 m. The first floor has a workshop and, in the southern part, offices for the director (upravitel) and two officials. The second floor has two large workshops. There are usually about 150 prisoners working in the carpentry shop - they spend the nights in the cells, the days at their work. The shop produces furniture, tables, desks, beds, cupboards. Upholstery work is also done.
18. "Along the wall itself on the northwestern side of the main building there is a one-story building about 80 m long and 10 m wide. This holds, from the north to the south:
- (a) Kitchen and dining room for the prison staff. The tables have cloths. The food is good. The soldiers of the prison's security force receive food from their units.
 - (b) Store of carpentry materials.
 - (c) Bakery.
19. "A separate building - 15 by 10 m provides a drying room for the wooden materials for the carpentry shop. The lumber is dried on an oven heated with wooden waste.

Personnel of the Stara Zagora District Prison

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20. "The Director of the District Prison in Stara Zagora is Senior Lt of the Militia Gospodin Stoytchev Mitev. [REDACTED]
21. "The Deputy Director for Political Affairs, is Mikhail Kasabov of the Militia. [REDACTED]
22. "The Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs is Senior Lt of the Militia Vidu Zaytcharov, [REDACTED]

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23. "The First Senior Warden, Geno Ivanov Stoyanov

24. "The Second Senior Warden, Dobri Mitev Dobrev

25. "Senior Warden Dimitar Payev Velkov

26. "Senior Warden Dragiya Ivanov Mikhailov

27. "There are about 20 guards in the prison, including:

Nikola Mitev Stojtchev
Ivan Mitev Yankov
Stantcho Mitev Dobrev
Entcho Manolov,
Nikola Biringyev,
Stoyan Tantchev,
Georgi Dimov Georgiev
(fnu) Kodshamanov -

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28. "The commander of the prison Darzhavna Sigurnost unit is Senior Lt D S Bozidar Tashev.

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29. "The entire prison administrative staff includes about 50 officials and about six prisoners, who perform clerical duties

Categories of Prisoners

30. "Under the order of the Department of Prisons and Compulsory Labor Camps; Bulgarian prisoners are divided into two categories: political prisoners and criminal prisoners.

(a) Political prisoners consist of persons sentenced or indicted for espionage, murder of a political personality, attempt to flee abroad, membership in or assistance to an illegal organization, distribution of anti-government literature, dissemination of anti-government rumors, editing or distribution of anti-governmental leaflets, sabotage, non-execution of State deliveries, etc. Political prisoners again are divided into three groups (razriady):

- (1) Political prisoners under investigation and those sentenced to 15 years and up.
- (2) Political prisoners with sentences from 5 to 15 years.
- (3) Political prisoners with sentences under 5 years.

under the rules of the prison in Stara Zagora the political prisoners of Group 1,

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23. "The First Senior Warden, Geno Ivanov Stoyanov, [redacted]24. "The Second Senior Warden, Dobri Mitev Dobrev [redacted]25. "Senior Warden Dimiter Payev Velkov [redacted]26. "Senior Warden Dragiya Ivanov Mikhailov [redacted]

27. "There are about 20 guards in the prison, including:

Nikola Mitev Stojtchev - [redacted]Ivan Mitev YankovStantcho Mitev Dobrev - [redacted]Entcho Manolov,Nikola Biringyev,Stoyan Tanchev,Georgi Dimov Georgiev.(fnu) Kodshamanov [redacted]

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with the exception of those under investigation, are allowed one food parcel weighing three kg once every three months; to receive and write one letter every three months. Twice a day, at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., they walk for 25 minutes. They are quartered in Department IA on the first floor of the south wing. They cannot work at the prison. They are isolated and cannot attend lectures or films.

The political prisoners of Group 2 are entitled to receive a parcel of three or five kg once every two months if they have worked, one letter and one visit. They had the right to work in the prison. Twice a day at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. they walk for 30 minutes. These prisoners are located in Departments IIA and B.

Every month the political prisoners of Group 3 can receive a parcel of three or five kg, one letter and one visit. They can work in the prison and also outside the prison under a special permit issued by the Ministry of Interior, Department of Prisons. Twice a day - at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. they walk for 45 minutes. They occupy the Departments IIIA and B.

(b) Criminal prisoners are likewise divided into three groups (razriady):

- (1) Criminal prisoners with sentences from 10 years up can receive one five-kg food parcel, two letters and one visit every two months. They are allowed to work inside the prison only. They walk twice a day for 30 minutes, at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. They are placed in common cells.
- (2) Criminal prisoners with sentences from 5 to 10 years are entitled to two five-kg food parcels, two letters and two visits each month. They can work in the prison or outside on a special permit. They walk twice a day at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- (3) Criminal prisoners with sentences up to five years can receive three five-kg food parcels one letter and one visit each month. They are allowed to work outside the prison. They walk twice a day for one hour and a half each time.

31. "At Stara Zagora the prisoners are reclassified every six months. The last classification of prisoners during my imprisonment at Stara Zagora took place June 1952.

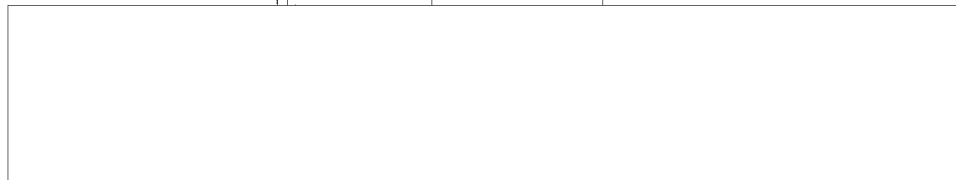
Stara Zagora Prisoners

32. "In August 1952 there were about 1,500 prisoners in the Stara Zagora prison. Of these about 70% were political prisoners. In each category there were:

Political	- Razriad 1 - about 100
	- Razriad 2 - over 200
	- Razriad 3 - over 300
Criminal	- Razriad 1 - over 50
	- Razriad 2 - about 100
	- Razriad 3 - over 700

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33. "The political prisoners in Razriad [redacted]



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All these men had been tried and sentenced for espionage and Trajtcho-Kostovism.

34. "Prisoners sentenced for attempting to cross the frontier illegally

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35. "Prisoners sentenced for assistance to illegal organizations

36. "About 25% of the political prisoners were peasants sentenced for failure to make their deliveries to the State.

37. "The political and criminal prisoners included about 100 army officers, sergeants and private soldiers arrested during active military service.

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39. "Easter 1951, about 350 persons who had been arrested during the liquidation of a partisan's unit in the so-called 'Slivenski Balkan' were brought to the prison in Stara Zagora. The conditions in the single cells was horrible: cells for three prisoners had 12. About 30 officials of the Darzhavna Sigurnost arrived. For 24 hours without interruption hearings were held. Within a month 15 people were set free and about 150 people were sent to forced labor camps. About the second half of June there was a trial behind closed doors. There were 11 death sentences. Later at night those sentenced were loaded on a truck and taken to Konski Grobishta where there is a precipice 50 m. deep - into which the inhabitants throw the bodies of dead animals. At the edge of this precipice the sentenced were shot. The execution was directed by Senior Lieutenant Bozidar Tashev, Darzhavna Sigurnost commander at the prison. Many who received jail sentences at that trial were sent to other prisons in Bulgaria. By the end of 1951 few of the group remained in Stara Zagora.

Detachment of Interior Troops in Stara Zagora

40. "In Stara Zagora is stationed a unit of about 1,500 soldiers - a detachment of the Interior Troops. [redacted] is commanded by Lt. Colonel (fnu) Peyev. It is stationed in the barracks in the northern suburbs of the town. These troops guard the prison, the forced labor camps, mines, banks, the radio station and offices controlled by the Ministry of Interior.

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US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATIONENCLOSURE (A): General Layout of the District Prison at Stara Zagora
(B): First Floor of Prison Administration Building and Basement
of the Main Prison Building

The following legends apply:

"(a) Legend to Plan No. 1 - General Layout Enclosure (A)

1. Dwelling building for the prison administrative personnel.
2. Dimitar Stanov factory.
3. Gypsum factory
- 4,5. Sheds for cattle and agricultural implements belonging to the prison.
6. Building containing a register of visitors, main telephone switchboard and CP club room.
7. Prison guard room.
8. Courtyard
9. Building of the prison management office and the theatre hall.
10. Prison hospital with separate courtyard.
11. Women's section with separate courtyard.
12. Section of prison with large communal cells.
13. An open circular area in the main prison building, running from the basement up to the roof; pillar in the middle.
14. Main building with single cells.
15. Carpenter workshops of the prison.
16. Mess room and kitchen for prison personnel.
17. Store of tools and carpenter materials.
18. Raw material store for the carpenter workshops.
19. Bakery.
20. Drying shed for lumber for carpentry shops.
- 21,22. Places in the courtyard where criminal prisoners may walk.
23. Yard for walks for political prisoners.

"(b) Legend to Plan No. 2 - First Floor of Prison Administration Building

1. Office of the deputy director of the prison (15 m by 8 m) Enclosure (B)
2. Office of the director of the prison (15 m by 8 m)
3. Office of the Darzhavna Sigurnost (Security Police) commandant (15 m by 8 m)

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4. Prison office and the prison steward.
5. Bookkeeping office.
6. Planning officer (planovnik)
7. Senior warden on duty.
8. Office room.
9. Prisoner's archives.

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10. W C
11. Room with unknown purpose.
12. Archives.
13. Waiting room for visitors.
14. Visiting room (for prisoners and persons visiting them)

"(c) Legend to Plan Nc 3 - Basement of the Main Prison Building [Enclosure (B)]

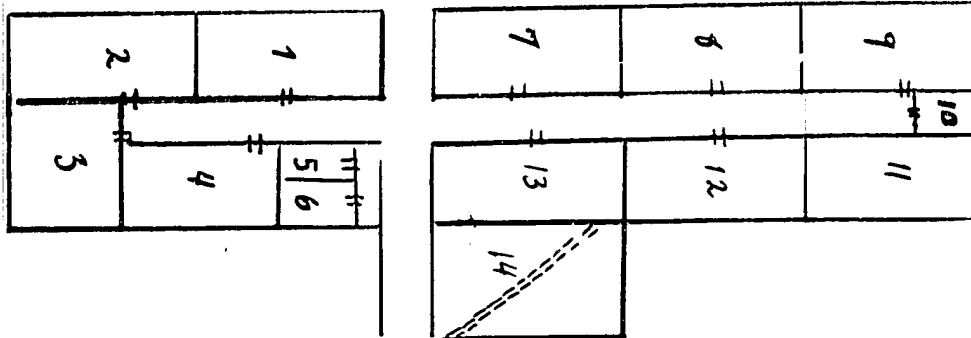
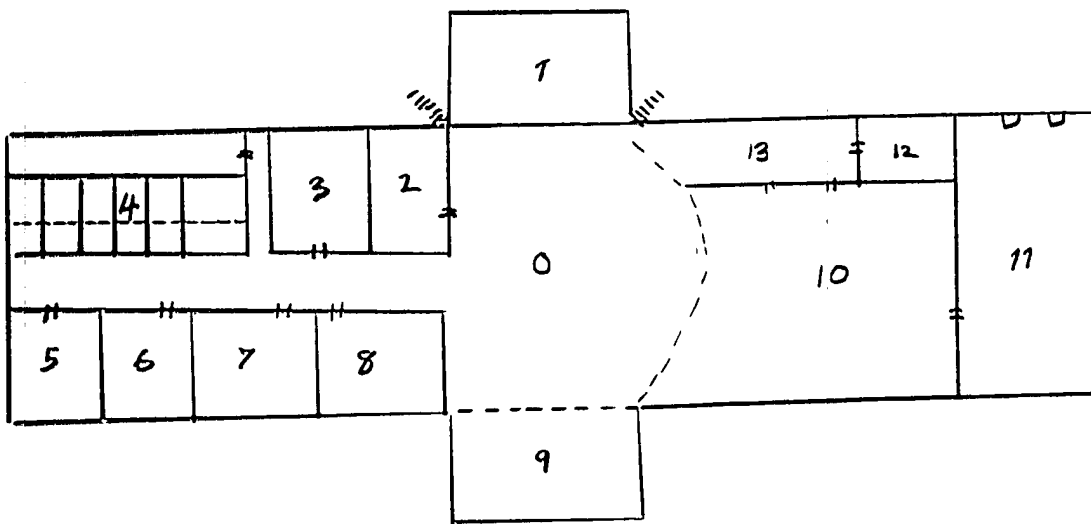
1. Kitchen for prisoners (basement of Administration Building)
2. Reception cell for new prisoners.
3. Clothing store.
4. Kartsers (punishment cells).
5. Prisoner's clothing store.
6. Disinfection room for prisoners' clothing.
7. Bathroom.
8. Washroom.
9. Store of furniture manufactured at the prison carpenter workshops.
10. Central heating installation.
11. Coal store.
- 12,13. Technical workshops of the prison."

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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Plan No 2Plan No 3

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